United Nations A/67/497

General Assembly

Distr.: General
8 October 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Agenda item 103
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 1 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith, on behalf of 22 of the Member States of the United Nations that constitute the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking (Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Egypt, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, the Philippines, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), the Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted at the third ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, convened on 28 September 2012 on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly (see annex).

It would be appreciated if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 103.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 October 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the Global Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

We, the Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, having met on 28 September 2012 on the margins of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in New York,

1. *Recall* our full adherence to fighting trafficking in persons and our strong determination to implement the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, in its resolution 64/293 entitled "United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons", as a comprehensive document aimed at promoting better coordination in combating trafficking in persons among key partners, including Member States, international organizations, mass media, the private sector and civil society;

2. *Recognize* that there can be no real success in the global fight against trafficking in persons without coordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels to discourage, demand, improve prevention, enhance the criminal justice response, raise public awareness, protect victims and ensure full respect for their rights;

3. *Express* deep concern that despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, trafficking in persons remains one of the grave challenges facing the international community and needs a more concerted, collective and comprehensive international response;

4. *Welcome* the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly on "Fighting human trafficking: partnership and innovation to end violence against women and girls" held in New York on 3 April 2012, that provided an opportunity for Member States, international organizations, civil society and the private sector to unite as one in the global fight against trafficking in persons;

5. *Recall* the decision to conduct, in 2013, an appraisal of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and request the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting, in 2013, in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, and identify areas for further action;

6. *Urge* Member States, the United Nations agencies, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to participate actively and constructively in the preparation for the appraisal in 2013 of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in order to strengthen the ways

in which the international community addresses the problem of trafficking in persons;

7. *Recognize* the progress achieved to date by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in improving coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations entities and international organizations to fight trafficking in persons at the global level and encourage the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to discuss, at one of its upcoming meetings, the actions needed at the international level in order to ensure full and effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action in the context of its appraisal in 2013;

8. *Express* support for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in fighting trafficking in persons and look forward to the launch, at United Nations Headquarters, in December 2012, of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012, produced by the Office, as called for in General Assembly resolution 64/293;

9. *Stress* the importance of full and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

10. *Acknowledge* the role that the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, can and do play in the effective implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and encourage them to contribute, within their respective mandates, to the appraisal in 2013 of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action;

11. *Reaffirm* the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, and encourage Member States, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and individuals to continue to provide financial support to the Trust Fund;

12. *Decide* to convene a ministerial meeting of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the margins of the sixty-eighth session of General Assembly.